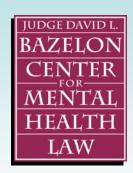
#### Robert Bernstein, Ph.D.

# Advocating for Change: Hot-Button Issues Affecting People with SMI



1101 15<sup>th</sup> Street, NW Washington, DC 20005 www.bazelon.org

#### Where We'll Travel

- Mental Health Advocacy, Its Meaning & How to Talk About It
- Hot Button Issues:
  - Deinstitutionalization
  - Seclusion/Restraint
  - Civil Inpatient Commitment
  - Outpatient Commitment
  - Mental Health Courts
  - Transformation/Recovery and Beyond...
  - The Consumer Movement



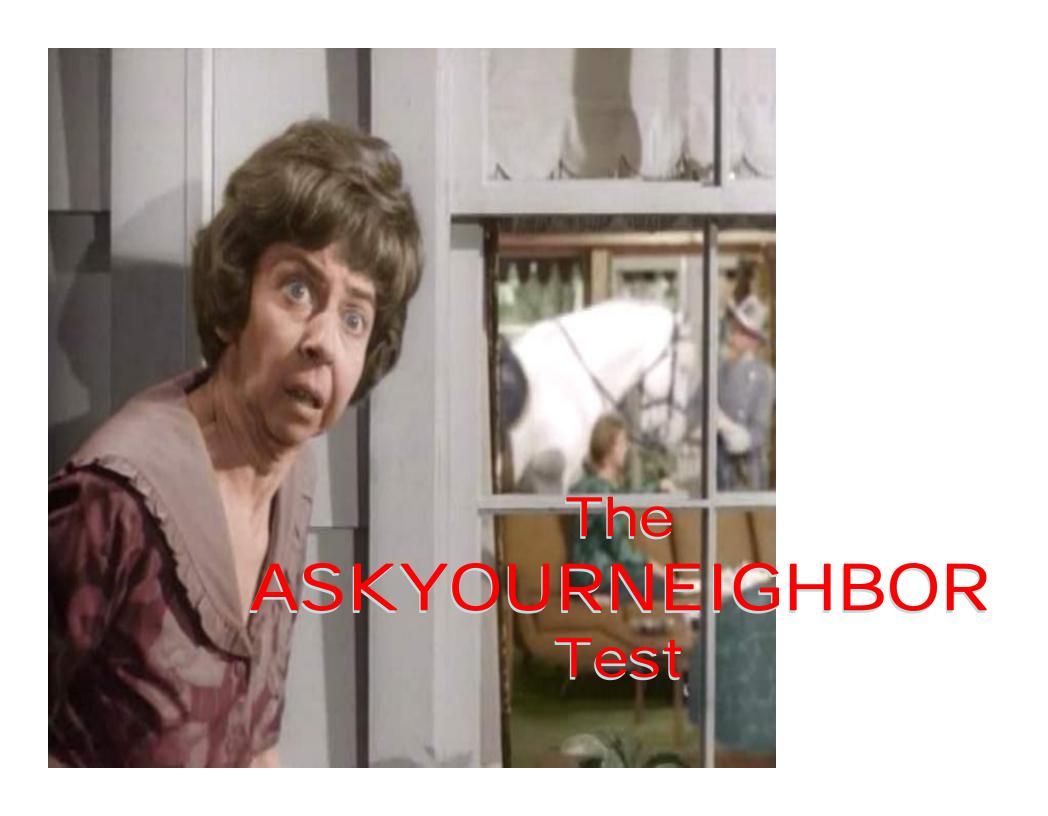


## ADA-IDEA-DSM-TRANSFORMATION-EPSDT-SSI-SSDI-DEINSTITUTIONALIZ ATION-PASARR-SED-RECOVERY-IOC-SMI-HCBW-CMH-SAMHSA

### Toward Reducing Stigma...

- Patients
- Schizos
- Psych's
- BOBWS
- The Mentally III
- Recipients
- Persons with Serious and Persistent Mental Illnesses

- Clients
- People with Mental Health Problems
- People with Brain Disorders
- Consumers
- Ex-Patients
- Psychiatric Survivors



## Reasonable Accommodation for the General Public (and Political Decision-makers):



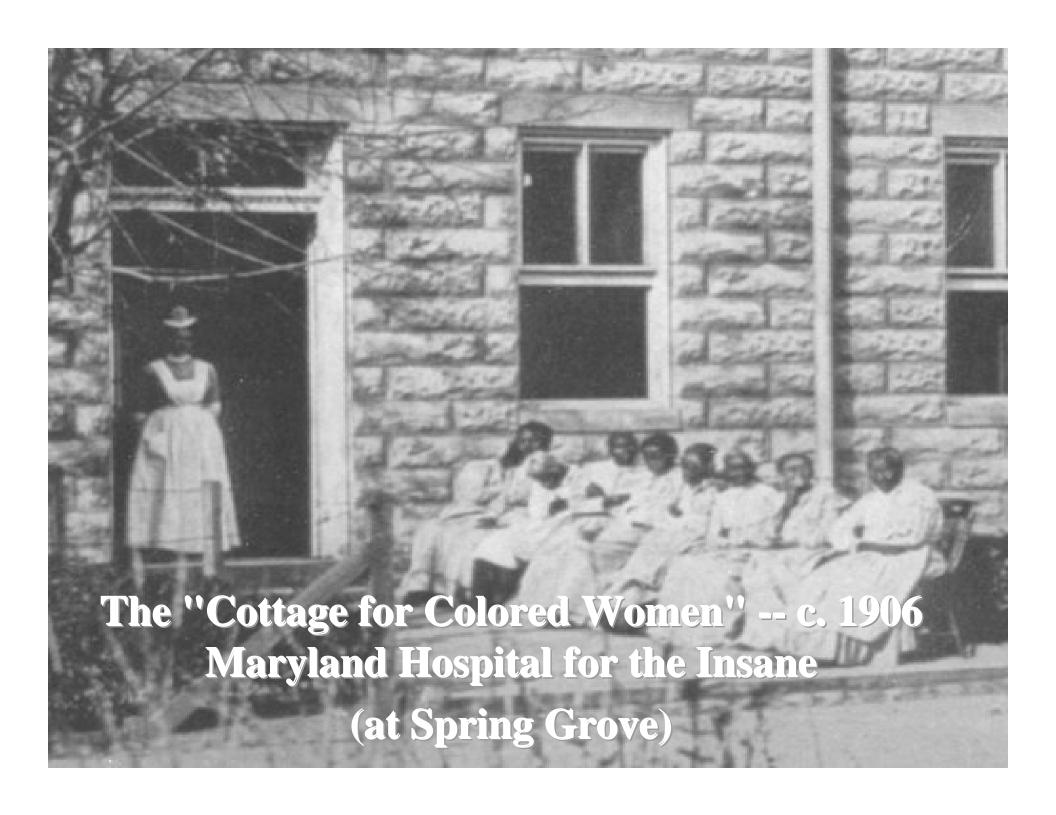
Explaining our Work in Accessible Ways

## Accessible Language that Furthers Advocacy

- Moves outside of our world
  - Simple words/Graphics
- Connects with values, interests and vulnerabilities of the (often middle-class) audience
  - Custody Relinquishment
  - Campus Mental Health
  - Returning Veterans
  - Needless Dependency
- Draws parallels with other important social issues

## The Civil Rights Lens



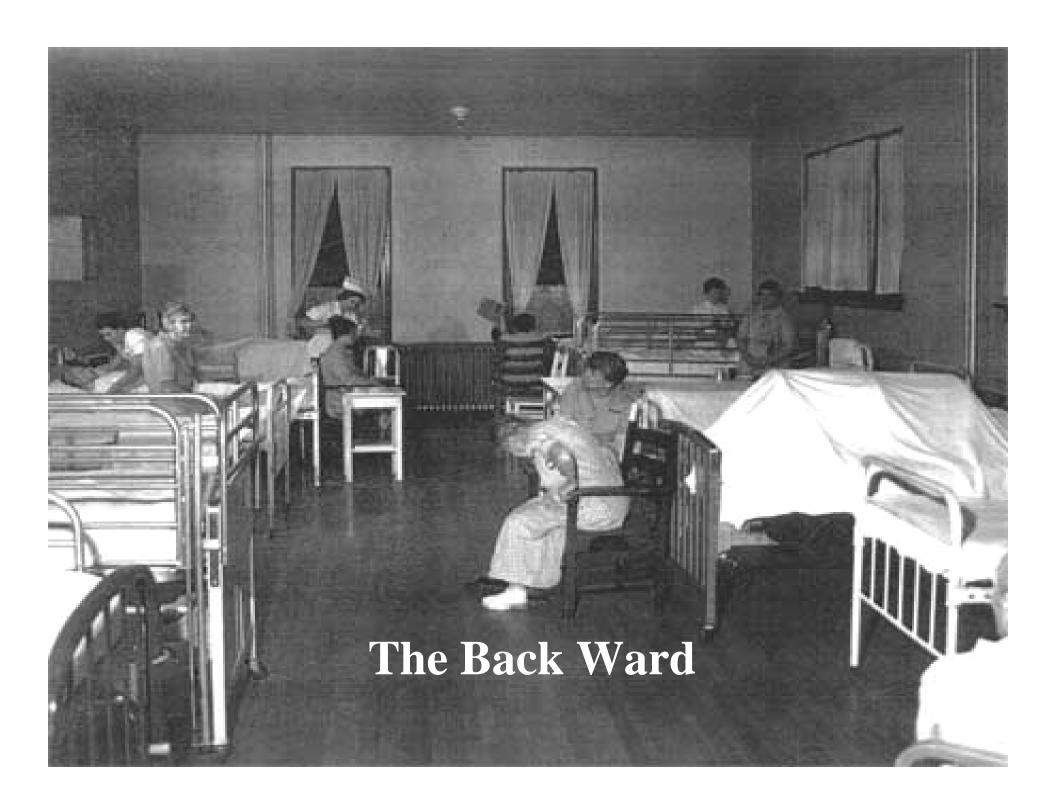


## The Americans with Disabilities Act



Asylum, General View, Pontlac, Mich.









## Confronting Trivialization



## Reinforcing the Reality: We Have the Technology. We Lack the Political Will.



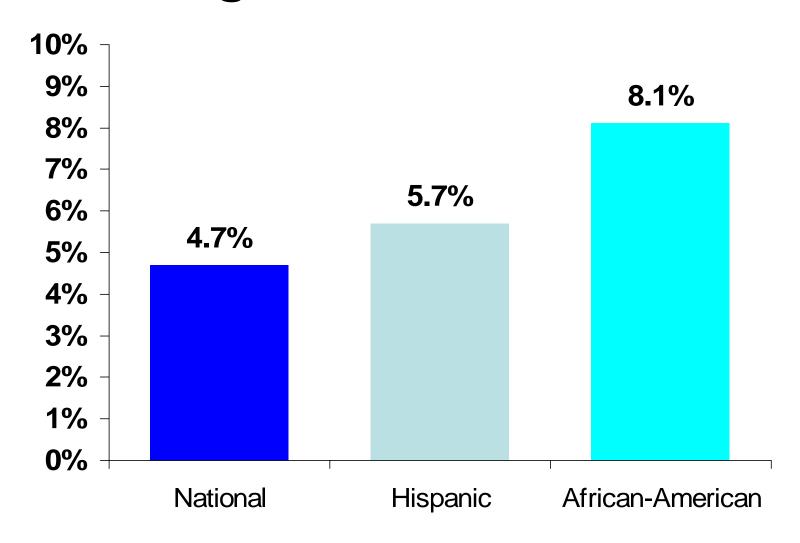


PRESIDENT'S NEW FREEDOM

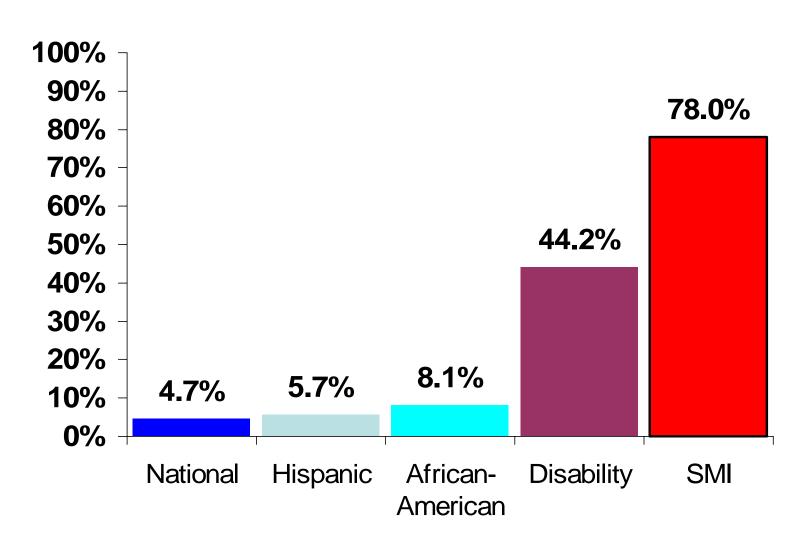
COMMISSION ON MENTAL HEALTH

# The Politics of Marginalized People & Marginalized Healthcare

## Unemployment Rates Among Racial Minorities



## Unemployment Rates



### Percentage Growth in State Spending

**70%** 

60%

50%

40%

30%

**All State** 

**Spending** 

(1990-1997)66% 56% 33% 20% -10% -0% -

**Corrections** 

**Mental Health**